

Social Security Advisory Board
Minutes
Board Meeting
December 9, 2013

Location: 400 Virginia Avenue, S.W., Suite 625
Washington, D.C. 20024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SSAB Members: Bernadette Franks-Ongoy, Acting Chair
Jagadeesh Gokhale
Dorcas Hardy

Presenters: **Web Phillips**, Senior Legislative Representative, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM)
Mary Bonauto, Civil Rights Project Director, Gay and Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
Susan Sommer, Director of Constitutional Litigation, Lambda Legal

SSAB Staff: Claire Green, Staff Director
Jeremy Elder
Joel Feinleib
Alec Moore
David Warner
Lynn Fisher, Detailee
David Gamble, Detailee
Randy Yiadom, Staff Intern
Mohammad Humza, Staff Intern

During its December meeting, the Board met in executive session for the majority of the day, primarily to discuss current and future Board projects. The Board held one fact-finding session in the afternoon, however, to discuss the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Windsor* ruling earlier this year that overturned the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Specifically, the Board met with LGBT advocates to discuss the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) implementation of the *Windsor* decision. Advocates reported that while SSA has made several crucial steps toward full implementation, some members of the LGBT community, they believe, are still not being given equal access to the benefits they are legally entitled to. For example, advocates expressed frustration that SSA is currently “holding” the majority of claims involving same-sex couples, even in states that legalized same-sex marriage long before the *Windsor* ruling. They also expressed disappointment that SSA has not met with advocates regularly, as they believe this should be a high priority for SSA.

I certify that the minutes written for the December 9, 2013 meeting of the Social Security Advisory Board are correct.

/s/ Bernadette Franks-Ongoy

Bernadette Franks-Ongoy

Acting Chair
Social Security Advisory Board